DECLASSINED Authority NWD 877419 1958 JUL 21 PM 5 56 DIITGOING Department of State 1136628 CONFIDENCIAL [] CHARGE TO Classification VERBATIM TEXT Amembassy PARIS SENT TO: TOPOL PRIORITY 179 RPTD INFO: Amembassy BONN Origin 1626.5411 Deliver Wolf 9 a.m. July 22 Infa Deptel 166 to Bonn Rptd TOPOL 311 You may inform POLAD US Army helicopter crew and passengers released from Soviet Zone July 19 through arrangements made by American and East German Red (i) Cross societies. In this connection you may circulate as unclassified text both text following /agreement contained Berlin's 74 rptd Paris 9 and Askinging oral statement made (7) by Department press officer after release: BEGIN STATEMENT (unessential words omitted): We are very pleased nine crew members and passengers of US Army helicopter which landed in East Germany June 7 have been returned to US control. In Olst. Desired accordance with agreements worked out in Berlin June 17 between Director of (Offices Only) Operations, European Area, of American National Red Cross, Mr. Robert S. Wilson () and President of East German Red Cross, Dr. Werner Ludwig, nine men were turned over to representatives of American Red Cross by representatives of East German Red Cross between noon and 1 p.m. on July 19 at Heinersgruen on border between Plauen and Hof. As press is already aware, American and East German Red Cross organizations RM/R Tolographic transmiss Drafted by: RA - B.E.L. Timmons classification approved EUR: GER: GPA: TDMcKiernan: eaw Clearances GER - Mr. Creel MWXXXXXXXXX Mr. Wilkinson UNLESS "UNCLASSITE REPRODUCTION FR -CONTITENTIAL COPY IS PROHIBITE Chessification THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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organizations had been in contact with one another during past week or two in connection with transmittal of mail to and from nine men and sending of comfort packages to men. This humanitarian co-operation led to discussion of arrangements END STATEMENT. for men's release and eventually to completion of such arrangements.

You may add we are satisfied above-mentioned arrangements do not/in any way connote or imply any recognition or acceptance of GDR. In conclusion you may state we considering best means re-emphasizing Soviet responsibility in matter and as next step / kmax we may address new demand to Soviets for return of helicopter.

-com-to-man